

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in South African money market instruments with a term shorter than 13 months. These instruments can be issued by government, parastatals, corporates and banks. The Fund is managed to comply with regulations governing retirement funds.

While capital losses are unlikely, they can occur if, for example, one of the issuers of an instrument held by the Fund defaults. In this event losses will be borne by the Fund and its investors.

ASISA unit trust category: South African – Interest Bearing – Money Market

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to preserve capital, maintain liquidity and generate a sound level of income. The Fund's benchmark is the Alexander Forbes Short Term Fixed Interest (STeFI) Composite Index.

How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

The Fund invests in selected money market instruments providing an income yield and a high degree of capital stability. We formulate an interest rate outlook, which is influenced by our inflation outlook and expectations of the resulting Reserve Bank policy response. Based on this analysis, we select investments for the Fund. These assets are typically held to maturity. We take a conservative approach to credit risk.

Suitable for those investors who

- Require monthly income distributions
- Are highly risk-averse but seek returns higher than bank deposits
- Need a short-term investment account

Fund information on 31 March 2024

Fund size	R29.2bn
Number of units	26 199 181 832
Price (net asset value per unit)	R1.00
Monthly yield at month end	0.74
Fund weighted average coupon (days)	88.33
Fund weighted average maturity (days)	110.67
Class	A

- The current benchmark is the Alexander Forbes Short Term Fixed Interest (STeFI) Composite Index. Since inception to 31 March 2003, the benchmark was the Alexander Forbes 3-Month Deposit Index. From 1 April 2003 to 31 October 2011 the benchmark was the Domestic Fixed Interest Money Market Collective Investment Scheme sector excluding the Allan Gray Money Market Fund, performance as calculated by Allan Gray as at 31 March 2024.
- This is based on the latest available numbers published by IRESS as at 29 February 2024.
- The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
- The standard deviation of the Fund's monthly return. This is a measure of how much an investment's return varies from its average over time.
- These are the highest or lowest consecutive 12-month returns since inception. This is a measure of how much the Fund and the benchmark returns have varied per rolling 12-month period. The Fund's highest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 July 2003 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 July 2003. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 October 2021 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 October 2021. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from our Client Service Centre on request.

Income distribution for the last 12 months

Actual payout (cents per unit), the Fund distributes monthly

Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023	Jul 2023
0.64	0.68	0.68	0.71
Aug 2023	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023
0.72	0.70	0.73	0.71
Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024
0.74	0.75	0.69	0.74

Performance net of all fees and expenses

% Returns	Fund	Benchmark ¹	CPI inflation ²
Cumulative:			
Since inception (1 July 2001)	436.8	414.6	235.0
Annualised:			
Since inception (1 July 2001)	7.7	7.5	5.5
Latest 10 years	6.9	6.5	5.1
Latest 5 years	6.5	6.0	5.1
Latest 3 years	6.5	6.1	6.1
Latest 2 years	7.6	7.2	6.3
Latest 1 year	8.8	8.4	5.6
Year-to-date (not annualised)	2.2	2.1	1.1
Risk measures (since inception)			
Percentage positive months ³	100.0	100.0	n/a
Annualised monthly volatility ⁴	0.6	0.6	n/a
Highest annual return ⁵	12.8	13.3	n/a
Lowest annual return ⁵	4.3	3.8	n/a

Meeting the Fund objective

The Fund has preserved capital, maintained liquidity and generated a sound level of income.

Annual management fee

A fixed fee of 0.25% p.a. excl. VAT

Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs (updated quarterly)

The annual management fee is included in the TER. The TER is a measure of the actual expenses incurred by the Fund over a one and three-year period (annualised). Since Fund returns are quoted after deduction of these expenses, the TER should not be deducted from the published returns (refer to page 4 for further information). Transaction costs are disclosed separately.

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 March 2024	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	0.29	0.29
Fee for benchmark performance	0.25	0.25
Performance fees	0.00	0.00
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.00	0.00
VAT	0.04	0.04
Transaction costs (including VAT)	0.00	0.00
Total investment charge	0.29	0.29

Exposure by issuer on 31 March 2024

	% of portfolio
Corporates	8.8
Shoprite	2.3
Mercedes-Benz Group	2.3
Sanlam	2.1
Daimler Truck	2.1
Banks⁶	50.5
Nedbank	17.8
Standard Bank	11.5
Absa Bank	8.5
Investec Bank	7.4
FirstRand Bank	5.2
Governments	40.8
Republic of South Africa	40.8
Total (%)	100.0

6. Banks include negotiable certificates of deposit (NCDs), floating rate notes, fixed deposits and call deposits.

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

While 2024 began with the US interest rate markets pricing for up to seven interest rate cuts during the year, by the end of the first quarter these expectations had been scaled back to only three cuts. The US market is awakening to the reality of a strong labour market, low unemployment and sticky inflation in US services. Such stickiness in US prices makes it incredibly difficult to cut interest rates without lighting the flame of another round of inflation. The drivers of US services inflation over the last few months cover quite a range of items, like costlier prices for elder care and domestic work, hospital and veterinarian services, financial services and even admission to sporting events. When an economy experiences an energy, food and fuel price shock, as seen in 2022, then it is natural to expect that a second-round shock via services-led inflation could follow. When prices have been high, workers demand higher pay. This is particularly true for an economy with a shortage of low-skilled labour, like the US. When in short supply, lower-cost labourers have a lot of bargaining power. US wage growth is unsurprisingly still running at an elevated 5.4% year-on-year with 8.8 million job openings versus only 6.4 million unemployed workers.

Inflation is also proving to be sticky in South Africa, and it is no surprise that the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) voted unanimously in March to keep the repo rate unchanged at a 14-year high of 8.25%. Last year, South African food inflation hit its highest levels since 2008. Drought-like conditions are emerging, not just in parts of the country, but across the continent, doing damage to crop yields and maize harvests. El Niño and bean disease have caused official cocoa production numbers to fall by 20% to 40% in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which are responsible for a combined 60% of global cocoa bean production. As a result, the price of cocoa per metric tonne has tripled in the last year which will bleed into confectionary prices in time.

The SARB has also been at pains to highlight that high administered regulated price inflation, such as for electricity, water and property rates, puts pressure on prices in a way that is outside of the SARB's control, given these prices are not being adjusted with demand but rather with the broken balance sheets of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and municipalities. In February, South African consumer prices rose by 5.6% year-on-year, more than a full percent wider than the SARB's preferred level. Unpacking this figure further, inflation in the Western Cape increased to 6.3%, given a greater weighting towards services categories like medical insurance, which rose by 13%. In provinces like Limpopo, headline inflation was notably lower at 4.4%, given a larger weighting towards basic food and fuel which is disinflating from the high base created in 2022.

The sticky nature of inflation in South Africa lessens the probability that the SARB will cut interest rates any time soon – or, if they do, it raises the chances that it will be a short cutting cycle. In this regard, the local market continues to price for only one interest rate cut over the next two years.

Over the last quarter, the Fund again raised its exposure to Treasury Bills as yields remained higher than bank deposit rates due to government's large funding requirement. Bank appetite to pay up aggressively for deposits tends to wane when they are writing fewer loans, and we have seen this occur as bank non-performing loans rise, and they subsequently rein in their credit appetite. The weighted average yield of the Fund (gross of fees) ended the quarter at 9.47%, paying the highest rate of interest in the Fund in over 14 years.

Commentary contributed by Thalia Petousis

**Fund manager quarterly
commentary as at
31 March 2024**

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Management Company

Allan Gray Unit Trust Management (RF) (Pty) Ltd (the "Management Company") is registered as a management company under the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act 45 of 2002, in terms of which it operates unit trust portfolios under the Allan Gray Unit Trust Scheme, and is supervised by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA). The Management Company is incorporated under the laws of South Africa and has been approved by the regulatory authority of Botswana to market its unit trusts in Botswana, however, it is not supervised or licensed in Botswana. Allan Gray (Pty) Ltd (the "Investment Manager"), an authorised financial services provider, is the appointed investment manager of the Management Company and is a member of the Association for Savings & Investment South Africa (ASISA).

The trustee/custodian of the Allan Gray Unit Trust Scheme is Rand Merchant Bank, a division of FirstRand Bank Limited. The trustee/custodian can be contacted at RMB Custody and Trustee Services: Tel: +27 (0)11 301 6335 or www.rmb.co.za.

Performance

Collective investment schemes in securities (unit trusts or funds) are generally medium- to long-term investments. The value of units may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The Management Company does not provide any guarantee regarding the capital or the performance of the Fund. Performance figures are provided by the Investment Manager and are for lump sum investments with income distributions reinvested. Actual investor performance may differ as a result of the investment date, the date of reinvestment and applicable taxes.

Fund mandate

Funds may be closed to new investments at any time in order to be managed according to their mandates. Unit trusts are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending. The funds may borrow up to 10% of their market value to bridge insufficient liquidity.

Minimum disclosure document and quarterly general investors' report **Issued:** 10 April 2024

The Allan Gray Money Market Fund is not a bank deposit account

The Fund aims to maintain a constant price of 100 cents per unit. The total return an investor receives is made up of interest received and any gain or loss made on instruments held by the Fund. While capital losses are unlikely, they can occur if, for example, one of the issuers of an instrument defaults. In this event, investors may lose some of their capital. To maintain a constant price of 100 cents per unit, investors' unit holdings will be reduced to the extent of such losses. The yield is calculated according to applicable ASISA standards. Excessive withdrawals from the Fund may place it under liquidity pressure; if this happens, withdrawals may be ring-fenced and managed over a period of time.

Purchase and redemption requests must be received by the Management Company by 11:00 each business day to receive that day's price. Unit trust prices are available daily on www.allangray.co.za.

Fees

Permissible deductions may include management fees, brokerage, securities transfer tax, auditor's fees, bank charges and trustee fees. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from Allan Gray.

Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

The total expense ratio (TER) is the annualised percentage of the Fund's average assets under management that has been used to pay the Fund's actual expenses over the past one- and three-year periods. The TER includes the annual management fees that have been charged (both the fee at benchmark and any performance component charged), VAT and other expenses like audit and trustee fees. Transaction costs (including brokerage, securities transfer tax, Share Transactions Totally Electronic (STRATE) and FSCA Investor Protection Levy and VAT thereon) are shown separately. Transaction costs are necessary costs in administering the Fund and impact Fund returns. They should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time, including market returns, the type of financial product, the investment decisions of the investment manager, and the TER. Since Fund returns are quoted after the deduction of these expenses, the TER and transaction costs should not be deducted again from published returns. As unit trust expenses vary, the current TER cannot be used as an indication of future TERs. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. Instead, when investing, the investment objective of the Fund should be aligned with the investor's objective and compared against the performance of the Fund. The TER and other funds' TERs should then be used to evaluate whether the Fund performance offers value for money. The sum of the TER and transaction costs is shown as the total investment charge (TIC).

Compliance with Regulation 28

The Fund is managed to comply with Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act 24 of 1956 (the "Pension Funds Act"). Exposures in excess of the limits will be corrected immediately, except where due to a change in the fair value or characteristic of an asset, e.g. market value fluctuations, in which case they will be corrected within the prescribed regulatory time period. The Management Company does not monitor compliance by retirement funds with section 19(4) of the Pension Funds Act (item 6 of Table 1 to Regulation 28).

Important information for investors

Need more information?

You can obtain additional information about your proposed investment from Allan Gray free of charge either via our website www.allangray.co.za or via our Client Service Centre on **0860 000 654**